

MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICIES ON SOCIAL STUDIES

The State Board of Education hereby adopts the following policies and directs the Superintendent to implement these proposals to the fullest extent possible within the Department; to the extent such proposals are not administratively or financially possible at this time, the Superintendent and the State Board shall vigorously work together to achieve such full implementation:

1. That the MERIT test include a Social Studies component, consistent with the State Board's Policy on Learning Expectations for Michigan Students.
2. Appropriate equated MEAP cut scores for elementary, middle and high school Social Studies shall be established on an on-going basis.
3. Grade Level Expectations for Social Studies shall be established. This process shall include a review and recommended approval from the Social Studies Task Force.
4. A comprehensive communication plan shall be established for: reaching all teachers of Social Studies and their administrators with information about assessment and instruction, and availability of resources for teaching the Social Studies Curriculum Framework upon which the MEAP/MERIT is built.
5. A professional development plan for all administrators and teachers of Social Studies shall be implemented.
6. The design of the MEAP will follow the Policy on Learning Expectations, including but not limited to maintaining inquiry and persuasive essay questions in the Social Studies MEAP, and that weighting those strands more equally with the four disciplinary strands will be explored, as recommended in the original MEAP Assessment Plan.
7. An annotated list of the Social Studies materials provided to item writers shall be made public.
8. Content standards, benchmarks, and content expectations shall continue to be used as the basis for MEAP testing.
9. The Department will investigate and make a recommendation to the State Board no later than July 1, 2005, on creating a set of grade level tests to be administered by local districts to evaluate yearly student achievement in Social Studies.
10. For the next 6-12 months, the members of the Task Force on Social Studies will continue to advise the MDE and the State Board in connection with adopted recommendations, and will be invited to conduct the final review, and make recommendations to the State Board regarding the Grade Level Expectations.

Adopted January 11, 2005